



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20463

RQ-2

May 17, 2013

CHAIRMAN RANAE LENTZ, TREASURER
OHIO REPUBLICAN PARTY STATE CENTRAL
& EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
211 S. FIFTH STREET
COLUMBUS, OH 43215

Response Due Date
06/21/2013

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: C00162339

REFERENCE: AMENDED OCTOBER MONTHLY REPORT (09/01/2012 - 09/30/2012),
RECEIVED 03/19/2013

Dear Treasurer:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report referenced above. This notice requests information essential to full public disclosure of your federal election campaign finances. **Failure to adequately respond by the response date noted above could result in an audit or enforcement action.** Additional information is needed for the following 6 item(s):

1. Itemized disbursements must include a brief statement or description of why the disbursements were made. Please amend Schedule B for Line 30(b) of your report to clarify the following description(s): "GOTV deployment - not candidate specific." For further guidance regarding acceptable purposes of disbursements, please refer to 11 CFR §104.3(b)(3).

2. Schedule A supporting Line 12 discloses a transfer(s)-in from "Republican National Committee," "National Republican Senatorial Committee," and "National Republican Congressional Comm." Schedule B supporting Line 30(b) reflects payments for "yard signs - for volunteer distribution," "Yard signs - for volunteer distributions," and "yard signs and placards - non allocable - distributed by volunteers." Please be advised that a state or local party committee may pay for campaign materials (such as pins, posters, bumper stickers and yard signs) that are distributed by volunteers in connection with activity on behalf of the party's nominees in a general election and for voter drive activity conducted on behalf of the party's Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees. Payments for this type of activity are exempt from the definition of a contribution or expenditure if certain conditions are met. The conditions are that no public advertising may be used, including distribution by direct mail (mailings by a commercial vendor or from commercial lists); all

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funds used for the activity must be permitted under the Act; none of the funds used may have been designated for a particular candidate; and finally, payments for the activity may not be made from transfers-in from the national committee to specifically fund the activity. For further guidance, please refer to 11 CFR §§100.87 and 100.147 and to the Campaign Guide for Party Committees.

If the activity disclosed on your report does not meet the definition of "exempt" activity as described above and if any portion of the expenditures were made on behalf of specifically identified candidates, that amount must be disclosed on Schedule B, E or F supporting Line 23, 24 or 25 of the Detailed Summary Page as appropriate. Please amend your report or provide clarifying information.

3. You have made disbursements for "non-allocable exempt printing and postage," "non-allocable exempt printing and postage -AB Chase," and "non-allocable exempt printing and postage - AB Chase - not candidate specific" which you have characterized as exempt activities. In order for an activity to be classified as exempt, it must meet the following conditions: (1) For slate cards and sample ballots: it names at least three candidates running for election to any public office, it is not distributed through public political advertising (including broadcast media, newspapers, magazines, and billboards), the content is limited to the identification of each candidate, the office or position currently held, the office sought and party affiliation, and the costs allocable to federal candidates are paid with permissible funds; (2) For campaign materials: the activity is conducted on behalf of the party's nominees in the general election, the materials are distributed by volunteers--not through public political advertising, the party committee does not use materials purchased by the national party committee or money transferred from the national committee to purchase materials, the party committee does not use funds designated for a particular federal candidate, a payment from a non-federal campaign to help pay for the materials does not exceed its allocated share of the expenses, and the costs allocable to federal candidates are paid with permissible funds; (3) For voter drives: the activity is on behalf of the party's Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees, the activity does not involve the use of public political advertising such as television, radio, newspapers, magazines, billboards or direct mail, phone banks are operated by volunteers (although paid professionals may design the system, develop calling instructions and train supervisors), the party committee does not use funds transferred by the national party committee for voter drive activities, the party committee does not use funds designated for a particular federal candidate, and the cost allocable to federal candidates are paid with permissible funds. (11

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CFR §§100.80, 100.87, 100.89 and 11 CFR §§100.140, 100.147 and 100.149)

If the activity disclosed on your report does not meet the definition of "exempt" activity as described above, and if any portion of the expenditures were made on behalf of specifically identified candidates, this amount must be disclosed on Schedule B, E or F supporting Line 23, 24 or 25 of the Detailed Summary Page as appropriate. Please provide the Commission with a more detailed explanation of these activities.

4. Schedule H4 of your report discloses a transfer to your non-federal account for an apparent refund(s) or rebate(s) of a previously allocated expense. Please be advised the refund or rebate must be allocated between the federal and non-federal accounts according to the same allocation ratio used to allocate the original disbursement. Furthermore, the transfer to your non-federal account for its share of the refund/rebate does not qualify as a shared expense to be allocated between your federal and non-federal account. This transaction should be disclosed as a 100% federal disbursement on Schedule H4. Any reimbursement from your committee's non-federal account for any portion of this transfer is not permissible. 11 CFR §102.5(a)(1)(i)

The Commission recommends that you immediately transfer the funds received by your federal account, as reimbursement for this non-federal portion, back to your non-federal account. Although the Commission may take further legal action concerning this apparent prohibited activity, your prompt action will be taken into consideration.

5. Schedule H4 of your report discloses disbursements for the Administrative category which use a ratio that is inconsistent with the ratio disclosed on Schedule H1. The fixed ratio for the allocation of administrative, generic voter drive and exempt activity expenses by State, district and local party committees should be the same for the full two-year election cycle, unless a Special election is scheduled during an odd numbered year. Please amend your report to clarify this apparent discrepancy.

Please note that if your non-federal account has overpaid your federal account because of this miscalculation, it will be necessary to immediately transfer these funds back to the non-federal account. While the Commission may take further legal action concerning any impermissible overpayments by the non-federal account, your prompt action will be taken into consideration. (11 CFR §§106.7(d))

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6. Schedule H4 of your report discloses a disbursement(s) for "travel supplies - pd on AT 9/11." Please be advised that expenses related to sending a delegate to a National Convention do not qualify as shared expenses to be allocated between your federal and non-federal accounts. Federal operating expenses should be disclosed on a Schedule B supporting Line 21(b) of the Detailed Summary Page. Any reimbursement from your committee's non-federal account for this disbursement(s) is not permissible and should be transferred-out immediately. (11 CFR §102.5(a)(1)(i)) Please amend your report to clarify the disbursement(s).

Please note, you will not receive an additional notice from the Commission on this matter. Adequate responses must be received by the Commission on or before the due date noted above to be taken into consideration in determining whether audit action will be initiated. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act may also result in an enforcement action against the committee. Any response submitted by your committee will be placed on the public record and will be considered by the Commission prior to taking enforcement action. **Requests for extensions of time in which to respond will not be considered.**

Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designations and reports) in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. If you should have any questions regarding this matter or wish to verify the adequacy of your response, please contact me on our toll-free number (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 5 to reach the Reports Analysis Division) or my local number (202) 694-1177.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Jones", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brian Jones
Senior Campaign Finance Analyst
Reports Analysis Division